

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### October 17, 2014

Lessons prepared by Amie Sondheim & Justine Light

#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1 Restored Power

Have you heard about the power troubles in downtown Calgary due to an underground electrical fire? This first story is about how the city has dealt with that power outage.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	plunged	a) to not have to be without
	underground	b) removed uprooted
	displaced	c) get back make better
	outage	d) beneath the surface below the ground
	recover	e) amount price
	costs	f) quickly put thrust

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**ENMAX** – An energy corporation in Alberta

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The electricity has been out since Saturday.
2. \_\_\_\_ ENMAX is responsible for getting the power working again.
3. \_\_\_\_ The outage put numerous blocks of a neighbourhood in the dark.
4. \_\_\_\_ The fire ruined the equipment in an underground room at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
5. \_\_\_\_ All the displaced people have had to pay a total of 86 thousand dollars for hotels and food.
6. \_\_\_\_ The cost of this outage will hopefully be partly recovered through the city's insurance.
7. \_\_\_\_ The province has promised to help recover the cost of the outage to the city.

**Discussion:** How would your life change if the power were to go out for a few days? What about if the power were out forever? What would happen around the world? Use the words "if" and "then" to describe how things would change. For example; If the power were to go out for a month, then...

## News story #2 Ebola Preparation

Would the hospitals in your town be ready if an Ebola patient arrived there? How can and should healthcare workers prepare for such an event? This second story is about how Alberta Health Services is preparing its staff to handle Ebola patients, should they need to.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with their definitions.

*Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	on edge	a) to keep safe, or unharmed
	contracted	b) to tell, or give information about
	infectious	c) to get, or catch a disease
	expert	d) very nervous or worried; not able to relax
	protect	e) specialist; very good at something
	trial run	f) the way something should be done; the steps taken
	inform	g) contagious; tending to spread from person to person
	protocol	h) a test of something to see how well it works

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Dallas** – a city in Texas, USA, where the first Ebola patient came to North America

**Protective gear** – the clothing a person must wear, so he/she doesn't get Ebola

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. As everyone gets ready for if and when Ebola comes to Alberta _____ are on edge.	a) the officials b) health care workers
2. People are on edge because _____	a) Dr. Smith says people shouldn't feel protected. b) Another nurse has gotten Ebola.
3. Someone from _____ will be there while doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear.	a) infectious disease b) infection control
4. A recent case of _____ Ebola in Edmonton caused concern.	a) suspected b) suspicious
5. Staff and unions _____ informed on protocols of what to do if Ebola comes.	a) need to be b) are already
6. Staff will be able to address their concerns with _____.	a) protocols and information. b) counseling and support.

**Discussion Questions:** If you were a doctor or nurse, would you look after an Ebola patient, or would you refuse? How worried would you be about getting sick and infecting others around you? Would you still go home and be with your family and friends after work? What protocols should health care workers who look after Ebola patients have to follow?

### News story #3 Renewed Dinosaur Park

Can you believe that dinosaurs used to walk the earth? Have you ever seen real dinosaur bones? Have you ever been to a place that teaches people about dinosaurs? This next story is about the Calgary Zoo's dinosaur park and how it will be improved.

**Vocabulary:** Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
update	to make corrections to, improve or make something modern or better
dinosaurs	extinct species which are the largest land mammals ever to live
prehistoric	a period of time before recorded history
refurbished	renovate or brighten up
animatronics	the technology using electronics to make animations (cartoons)
mimic	to copy
exhibit	to show, present, or display

1. Have you ever seen a T-Rex? It's a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Children \_\_\_\_\_ their parents by doing all the same things as them.
3. My kitchen is getting \_\_\_\_\_ because it's too small and I want more space.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ in this movie are great!
5. The art \_\_\_\_\_ will be in town for 2 months, then it will move to a different city.
6. Dinosaurs are so old that they are \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ the program so it runs better.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Matching

Match the columns according to how the subject affects the object. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Subject of statement	Matching letter (a,b,c,d,e)	Verb and Object of statement
1. The Calgary Zoo		a) be renewed with animatronic models.
2. The prehistoric park		b) will open in March.
3. The massive machines		c) is improving the park.
4. The exhibit		d) make noises and mimic dinosaur behavior.

**Discussion:** This story is about updating and refurbishing something old to make it better. What other things get updated and refurbished? What have you updated before? Don't forget to use past tense to describe the experience.

## Language Focus: Adverbs of Time

Adverbs of time **tell us when an action happened**. Here are some examples of adverbs of time:

After	Before	When	While	By the time
Since	Until	As soon as	As long as	Whenever
The first time	The last time	The next time	Finally	Once

**Adverbs of time are used with: 1. an adverb clause and 2. a main clause.**

### What is a clause?

**A clause** is a group of related words that contains a subject and a verb. There are independent (or main) and dependent (or subordinate) clauses.

**Independent (or main) clauses** can stand by themselves and do not need anything to complete it.

**Dependent (or subordinate) clauses** cannot stand on their own, then need the independent clause in order to become a complete statement or sentence.

**A. Below are statements with adverbs of time in them taken from the audio. Follow the instructions below and then check your answers in the appendix.**

- First, **identify the adverbs**.

- Next, **underline the part of the statement that is the independent clause**. You will know it is the independent clause if you can read it as a complete sentence and it is not missing anything important.

- Last, see if you can notice a pattern of when we use a comma (,) with adverbs of time.

1. Several blocks of the neighbourhood were plunged into darkness Saturday night when a fire destroyed equipment in an underground electrical room at 5th Avenue and 8th Street South West.

2. As officials work to prepare for Ebola if and when it shows up in Alberta, some healthcare workers here are on edge.

3. This comes as a second nurse has contracted Ebola while caring for a dying patient in Dallas.

4. Someone from infection control is always present while doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear.

You may have noticed that when the adverb is in the first clause, a comma is used to separate the two clauses. When the adverb comes in the second clause, a comma is not used to separate the clauses.

**B. Re-write the four statements above so the clauses are reversed.** So, if the independent clause is first, rewrite it so the dependent clause is first, etc. Add the appropriate commas if needed.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 17 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, This is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 17 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	ENMAX finally has the electricity back up in the west part of downtown. Several blocks of the neighbourhood were plunged into darkness Saturday night when a fire destroyed equipment in an underground electrical room at 5th Avenue and 8th Street South West. This emergency has cost the City 86-thousand dollars so far for hotels and food for people displaced by the power outage. The city will try to recover those costs through its insurance and by asking the province for help.	0:09
Story 2	As officials work to prepare for Ebola if and when it shows up in Alberta, some healthcare workers here are on edge. This comes as a second nurse has contracted Ebola while caring for a dying patient in Dallas. Dr. Stephanie Smith is an infectious disease expert at the University of Alberta. She said that officials want to make sure healthcare workers feel protected. She explained that during trial runs at her hospital, someone from infection control is always present while doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear. Jane Sustrik -- with the United Nurses of Alberta says a recent case of suspected Ebola in Edmonton has caused concern and that Alberta Health Services needs to clearly inform staff and unions about protocols and provide support perhaps in the form of counselling -- to help staff address their fears.	0:49
Story 3	The Calgary Zoo is updating its dinosaur park. The whole prehistoric park will be refurbished and will have 17 animatronic models. The zoo says the massive machines mimic dinosaur behavior and also make noises. The exhibit will open in March.	1:59

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
<b>f</b>	plunged	a) to not have to be without
<b>d</b>	underground	b) removed uprooted
<b>b</b>	Displaced	c) get back make better
<b>a</b>	outage	d) beneath the surface below the ground
<b>c</b>	recover	e) amount price
<b>e</b>	costs	f) quickly put thrust

#### Listening:

#### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1.   **F**   The electricity has been out since Saturday. **It had been out since Saturday.**
2.   **T**   ENMAX is responsible for getting the power working again.
3.   **T**   The outage put numerous blocks of a neighbourhood in the dark.
4.   **F**   The fire ruined the equipment in an underground room at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
5.   **F**   All the displaced people have had to pay a total of 86 thousand dollars for hotels and food.
6.   **T**   The costs of this outage will hopefully be partly recovered through the city's insurance.
7.   **F**   The province has promised to help recover the costs of the outage to the city.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
<b>d</b>	on edge	a) to keep safe, or unharmed
<b>c</b>	contracted	b) to tell, or give information about
<b>g</b>	infectious	c) to get, or catch a disease
<b>e</b>	expert	d) very nervous or worried; not able to relax

a	protect	e) specialist; very good at something
h	trial run	f) the way something should be done; the steps taken
b	inform	g) contagious; tending to spread from person to person
f	protocol	h) a test of something to see how well it works

### Listening:

1. As everyone gets ready for if and when Ebola comes to Alberta _____ are on edge.	a) the officials b) health care workers
2. People are on edge because _____	a) Dr. Smith says people shouldn't feel protected. b) Another nurse has gotten Ebola.
3. Someone from _____ will be there while doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear.	a) infectious disease b) infection control
4. A recent case of _____ Ebola in Edmonton caused concern.	a) suspected b) suspicious
5. Staff and unions _____ informed on protocols of what to do if Ebola comes.	a) need to be b) are already
6. Staff will be able to address their concerns with _____	a) protocols and information b) counseling and support

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary:

1. Have you ever seen a T-Rex? It's a type of **dinosaur**.
2. Children **mimic** their parents by doing all the same things as them.
3. My kitchen is getting **refurbished** because it's too small and I want more space.
4. The **animatronics** in this movie are great!
5. The art **exhibit** will be in town for 2 months; then it will move to a different city.
6. Dinosaurs are so old that they are **prehistoric**.
7. I need to **update** the program so it runs better.

### Listening:

Subject of statement	Matching letter	Verb and Object of statement
1. The Calgary Zoo is	<b>c</b>	a) be renewed with animatronic models.
2. The prehistoric park	<b>a</b>	b) will open in March.
3. The massive machines	<b>d</b>	c) is improving the park.
4. The exhibit	<b>b</b>	d) make noises and mimic dinosaur behavior.



**Language focus:**

A.

1. Several blocks of the neighbourhood were plunged into darkness Saturday night **when** a fire destroyed equipment in an underground electrical room at 5th Avenue and 8th Street South West.
2. **As** officials work to prepare for Ebola if and **when** it shows up in Alberta, some healthcare workers here are on edge.
3. This comes as a second nurse has contracted Ebola **while** caring for a dying patient in Dallas.
4. Someone from infection control is always present **while** doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear.

B. When the adverb comes in the first clause, a comma is used to separate the two clauses. When the adverb comes in the second clause, a comma is not used to separate the clauses.

Rewrite:

1. **When** a fire destroyed equipment in an underground electrical room at 5th Avenue and 8th Street South West, several blocks of the neighbourhood were plunged into darkness Saturday night
2. Some healthcare workers here are on edge **as** officials work to prepare for Ebola if and **when** it shows up in Alberta.
3. **While** caring for a dying patient in Dallas, this comes as a second nurse has contracted Ebola
4. **While** doctors and nurses put on and take off their protective gear, someone from infection control is always present.